

High Quality Options for Families: Offer Equal Educational Opportunities to All Children. Give Parents a Voice.

Every parent—regardless of salary, race or ZIP code—should have access to excellent schools for their children. With that in mind, we must throw open the doors of opportunity for all students by removing obstacles to innovative, effective school models.

Give all parents high quality options for their children.

We Must...

- Allow students to graduate early and offer them a college scholarship equal to a portion of the amount the state would have spent on the last year of high school.
- Ensure state education dollars follow the needs of students so parents can select the best possible educational options for their children.
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Why?

- All children have a right to a great education. However, in today's system, only some parents can afford to provide the best education for their children.

Create more charter authorizers.

We Must...

- Establish the Indiana Charter School Board to authorize new charters throughout the state.
- Allow private colleges and universities to apply to the State Board of Education (SBE) to authorize new charters.
- Remove caps on the number of new charters that may be authorized so growth of quality options can keep pace with demand from families.

Why?

- Currently, only state-funded universities and the Indianapolis mayor may authorize new charters. Indiana needs more quality authorizers to provide diverse, high-quality options for all families.

Hold all charter authorizers accountable for student performance.

We Must...

- Charge the SBE with raising the accountability for all authorizers and establishing a timeline and consequences for authorizers that fail to meet rigorous performance standards.

Why?

- Currently, oversight of charter authorizers is inadequate, which means some schools with marginal chances for success are opening, and too few are being shut down for poor performance.

Help charters secure safe and appropriate buildings and facilities.

We Must . . .

- Grant charters use of underutilized school buildings through favorable lease and purchase options with school corporations.

Why?

- Charter schools face enormous challenges in gaining access to quality facilities. They must often plead with corporations to be allowed to rent space in unused school buildings or use facilities that are not well-suited for classroom instruction.

Expand access to virtual charter schools.

We Must . . .

- End the virtual school pilot and allow current pilot schools to become full, virtual charter schools.
- Allow new virtual charters to follow the same authorization process as other charters.

Why?

- Virtual charter schools offer a unique avenue for accommodating students who are not best served by the traditional K-12 system. Virtual schools also offer opportunities to fill gaps in the current system, such as for advanced or specialized course offerings.

Strengthen the process for schools to convert to charters.

We Must . . .

- Allow school boards to vote in favor of converting to a charter.
- Allow the parents of 51% of the students in a school to convert a school to a charter if the parents can secure an outside authorizer.
- To ensure greater accountability, require the charter to have an outside authorizer to ensure the conversion charter school is autonomous from the local school corporation.
- Attribute the conversion charter school's performance data to the school corporation.

Why?

- Creating multiple avenues for charter conversion will offer local administrators and community stakeholders greater flexibility to improve their schools. Current law requires approval from an overwhelming majority of school staff and parents for conversion to occur.